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Ad 4 Pgi
For Use of County Committeemen
at Election Meetings,
December 11-15

1945 AAA PROGRAM IN ILLINOIS

Despite many handicaps caused by the war, Illinois farmers have expanded their production tremendously during the past four years to speed the day of victory. In 1944, production of crops in the State was 14 percent above the pre-war level, and of livestock, 28 percent.

To achieve this big production, farmers have worked long hours, demonstrating their determination and ability to overcome shortages of labor and machinery. They have also increased their farming efficiency and carried out more soil conservation practices than ever before. Yet despite these efforts, there has been a heavy drain upon the fertility of the land, and it seems certain that most of the State's cropland will come out of the war worse off than it went in from a fertility standpoint.

But the time has not yet come to reduce production. The war continues. Next year, instead, will be a year to level off production. There will be several adjustments among individual crops and commodities but the total production program should equal 1944.

We must risk too much rather than too little. We cannot gamble with vital food supplies in time of war.

Some of the things that have been responsible for record or near-record food production in 1944 cannot be depended upon again in 1945. Nationally, it is estimated that more than one-third of the increased crop yields during the past three seasons has resulted from above-average weather. Average weather in 1945 can be expected to result in about 10 percent less total production.

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Producers of farm products are of course greatly interested in the prospective demand for 1945 production. They know that nearly 25 percent of our food production has been going to our armed forces and to our Allies abroad. When the shooting stops in Europe, it is expected that Government procurement to meet these needs will be curtailed. This will be especially true for Lend-Lease. Some of the reserve supplies held in the United Kingdom may be drawn on to meet relief needs in Europe.

It is possible that the armed services may also be able to cut down on purchases of foodstuffs for certain combat areas, using supplies already in stockpiles.

There are several points which should be remembered here, however. The war will probably still be going on in the Pacific; fighting men cannot all come home at once; servicemen will still eat when they do return to civilian life. From the point of view of the over-all demand for food, end of hostilities in Europe will make some difference in overseas demand, especially for certain commodities, but we must not overestimate the net effect on the general need for United States farm production.

There is going to be some demand for commercial exports next year. Many countries are very low on stocks of crops which they normally import from us. This is especially true for commodities such as cotton, tobacco, and wheat. There are problems here, of course, but there should be an outlet abroad for a good deal of our farm production.

Domestic demand for farm products is expected to remain at relatively high levels next year. Steps are already being taken to speed up reconversion to peace-time industrial production. There is a much bigger backlog of demand for producer and consumer goods than there was after the last war. Supplying this backed-up demand for peace-time goods will make jobs. Industrial jobs mean customers for farm products.

- 2 -

THE 1945 FARM PRODUCTION GOALS FOR ILLINOIS, as set by State farm representatives at a meeting with WFA people in Decatur on November 27-28 call for 20,238,000 acres of crops and an additional 2,750,000 acres of tame hay. This compares with 20,604,000 acres of crops in 1944; 19,258,000 acres average during 1937-41.

Highlights on the 1945 State Goals:

CORN -- 8,700,000 acres, which is 5 percent less than 1944 plantings but 485,000 acres above the 1937-41 average.

SOYBEANS -- 3,400,000 acres, the same as 1944, which was nearly double the 1,803,000 acres average for 1937-1941.

OATS (see below)*

SOWS TO FARROW IN SPRING OF 1945 -- 871,000 head, compared with 897,000 head in spring of 1944 and an average of 720,000 head for 1937-41. This would be a reduction of 3 percent below last spring.

EGGS -- a reduction of 15 percent below 1944 output, which totaled a record high of 235 million dozen in Illinois compared with an average of only 164 million dozen in 1937-41.

MILK -- An increase of one percent above the record production of nearly 5.5 billion pounds of milk indicated for this year, 1944.

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In adopting these goals, the State farm representatives made several observations of interest to Illinois farmers.

The Committee report on crops said in part:

CORN -- The reduction in corn acreage is recommended for the following reasons: With a reduced amount of livestock there is a reduction in the need of corn for feed....Soybeans will yield higher in comparison with corn on soils with depleted nitrogen supply, and many Illinois soils are low in nitrogen.

*OATS -- 3,500,000 acres, compared with 3,324,000 acres in 1944 and an average of 3,626,000 acres in 1937-41

SOYBEANS HARVESTED FOR GRAIN: Same goal as 1944 recommended because there is apparently a greater need for an oil crop than for corn. With this demand for oil and a reduced feed need it will be easier to make the request for the same acreage of soybeans with a slight reduction in corn acreage.

OATS -- Increased goal because there is a need for greater acreage of oats to serve as a nurse crop for legume seedings.

BARLEY: An unsatisfactory crop in 1944. Decrease recommended.

TAME HAY -- 150,000 acre increase. Reasons for increase important: This increase should reduce the acreage of soybeans cut for hay and thus aid in the production of soybeans for beans. There are areas of hay shortage where hay prices are at ceiling levels and hay not always available at that price...Stands of legumes are available if they live through the winter... heavy demand for legume seed...Legume crops needed in soil improvement program.

RED CLOVER SEED -- Acreage increased because, taking a longtime view, an increased acreage is needed.

GENERAL: Hold the soybean acreage UP in the area of chinch-bug population (territory between and including Morgan and White counties); hold the corn acreage UP in area north of a diagonal line from Adams county to Chicago.

The Committee report on livestock said, in part:

CATTLE AND CALVES -- Feed will be available for handling more feeder cattle. Numbers of cattle on feed in Illinois must be maintained if a moderate liquidation of all cattle in U. S. is to be accomplished and more fed cattle are to be marketed.

MILK COWS -- To maintain the goal needed on milk cow numbers, it is imperative that present dairy-feed price relationship be maintained if desired production is secured.

HOGS -- Reduction of only 3 percent in hog production recommended. If average size of litters next spring equals that of past five year average of 6.19, the 1945 spring pig crop would be same as 1944.

POULTRY -- In view of present supplies of dried, frozen and storage eggs, committee recommends a 15-percent reduction from 1944.

The goals meetings recommended the need for reducing hen numbers by March 1 to avoid breakdown in EGG market in spring of 1945, and a state-wide hen culling campaign to increase efficiency in production.

CANNING CROPS -- Goals for canning crops remain as in 1944, with exception of sweet corn and tomatoes. Increase in sweet corn recommended because of lower-than-average yields expected due to ^{spread of} European corn borer.

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TO ACHIEVE these goals will require the voluntary cooperation of every farmer in Illinois. Through its various agencies, such as AAA, the Extension Service, Farm Security Administration, Farm Credit Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Office of Distribution, the War Food Administration stands ready to assist farmers with labor, credit, marketing, and other problems.

It should be remembered by all farmers that the Federal Government is pledged by law to support the prices of most farm commodities at 90 per cent of parity during the war and for two years thereafter. Farmers can produce at goal levels with assurance that the bottom will not drop out of their prices should the war end suddenly. Then for two years they will have plenty of time to adjust their operations to market conditions which follow.

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